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where they could be seen might have been printed in the appendix or elsewhere in the volume.

Another feature of Mr. Dexter's book which renders it less attractive to the reader is the comparative lack of editorial comment. Nearly all the characters mentioned in the documents were persons about whom explanatory notes would have proved most entertaining, and the editor was well qualified to have furnished them. He would have simply had to draw from the rich store of information already amassed by him in previous books. But, either because he has felt that such annotations would be useless repetition on his part, or because he has assumed too great a familiarity with the subject on the part of his readers, his explanations are remarkably few and short. Nor does the editor insert any considerable extraneous matter tending to throw light on different questions involved in the establishment of the college such, for instance, as the need for it, the reasons for its location, the conflict over a site and the Episcopalian irruption. He seems to have endeavored to preserve the skeleton framework formed by the principal records, without supplying the meat and blood of supplemental knowledge, which renders a book of this sort entertaining to the average reader as well as valuable to the historian. Unless one has thoroughly familiarized himself with the times and people, he is apt to find the text of the documents difficult to follow except in conjunction with other histories.

To the student the book is useful for reference. It contains no illustrations, but is printed on good paper, in clear type, and is attractively bound. The proof-reading has been carefully done and the index is fairly well prepared. To graduates of Yale, however, we suggest that they first read Mr. Oviatt's volume, or some other work, to acquaint themselves with general conditions surrounding the origin and early development of the college. This is probably what Mr. Dexter has intended that they shall do.

HARRY BRENT MACKOY

Some cursory remarks. Made by James Birket in his voyage to North America, 1750-1751. [Yale historical publications, manuscripts, and edited texts, iv, published under the direction of the department of history from the income of the Frederick John Kingsbury memorial fund] (New Haven: Yale university press, London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford university press, 1916. 74 p. \$1.00 net)

Birket sailed from St. John's Antiqua, July 26, 1750; landed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the sixteenth of the following month; and was entertained there by Mark Hunking Wentworth, a member of the most prominent family of the colony and himself one of the wealthiest mer-

chants of New England, by Jotham Odiorne who was related by marriage to the Wentworths, and by Henry Sherburne, George Jaffrey, and George Libby, all prominent in public life. On September 1 he set out by way of Hampton, Newbury, and Salem for Boston where he was attended chiefly by Henry Vassels, son-in-law of Acting-Governor Phips; and Vassels and his wife accompanied Birket to Providence, at which place he was the guest of William Ellery, the deputy governor of Rhode Island. He left Providence October 3 in company with George Mifflin and proceeded by way of New London, New Haven, Fairfield, Norwalk, Mamaroneck, and King's Bridge to New York, where he dined with John Fells and with other merchants and sea captains. From New York, the last day of October, he proceeded to Philadelphia by way of Brunswick, Princeton, and Trenton. Early in January, 1751, he visited the iron works on the lower Susquehanna, and returning northward sailed from New York for Antiqua on March 16. Although entertained and attended during his itinerary by men of prominence not so much as one mention of his presence in the country has been found in any of the newspapers of the day.

His observations were for the most part those of a merchant made at close range: qualities of the soil, its products, domestic animals, ship building, ship-building timber, trade, manufactures, taverns, churches, and the situation and appearance of towns. He was interested in both Harvard and Yale; but in matters of history he was inaccurate; in matters of religious belief, tolerant or indifferent; and in matters of government, silent.

The diary is published with a brief preface signed by the well known initials "C. A. M." but without any annotations whatever. Mark Hunting Wentworth (p. 3) is printed for Mark Hunking Wentworth, Jotham Odiovne (pp. 3 and 4) for Jotham Odiorne, and Elisha Bond (p. 50) for Elijah Bond.

N. D. Mereness

Life and adventures of Colonel Daniel Boon, the first white settler of the state of Kentucky. Written by himself. To which is added a narration of his latter life until his death. Annexed is an eulogy by Lord Byron. (New York: Charles Fred. Heartman, 1916. 42 p. \$3.00)

This work has been published in a very limited edition, in part for the Daniel Boone club, and in part for Heartman's *Historical series*. The book is a reprint of a work published in 1823, but it is not stated which copy of this original edition has been used.

The first part of the Life and adventures of Colonel Daniel Boon re-